

Charles Fields Granary
County Route P
North Fork vicinity
Monroe County
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1210

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

CHARLES FIELDS GRANARY

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Location:

About 1.0 mile east of County Route P, 0.4 mile northwest of the confluence of Crooked Creek and the North Fork of the Salt River, about 3.5 miles northwest of Stoutsville, and about 3.0 miles south of North Fork, Monroe County, Missouri.

USGS Goss 7-1/2' Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 15.593090.4380300.

Present Owner:

United States of America, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District (August 1978).

Present Use:

Vacant. Located in the Clarence Cannon Dam and Reservoir Project Area.

Significance:

The Charles Fields Granary is one of the few remaining examples in the region of a form of building transferred directly from the Old World to Monroe County. The "Old Ireland" settlement, of which Fields was a member, preferred to use traditional materials, such as stone, while others used the traditional American material, wood, for structures of similar type.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: circa 1870.
2. Architect/builder: Unknown. It is assumed that Charles Fields was the builder.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The Charles Fields Granary is located in the northwest quarter, Section 9, Township 54 North, Range 7 West. The following references are from the deed books in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Monroe County Courthouse, Paris, Missouri:

1868 Warranty Deed, February 14, 1868; Recorded in Book W, page 206. James E. Ragsdale to Charles Fields. 40 acres for \$800.

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- 1905 Charles Fields died and left the property to his children, who in turn sold their shares to Eugene S. Kelly, a son-in-law of Fields.
- 1905 Quit Claim Deed, July 31, 1905. Recorded in Book 48, page 559. Ella Cummins to Eugene S. Kelly. One sixth of the inheritance for \$350 (145 acres total).
- 1905 Warranty Deed, December 2, 1905. Recorded in Book 60, page 108. Maggie Hurley to Eugene S. Kelly. One sixth of the inheritance for \$450.
- 1906 Warranty Deed, February 6, 1906. Recorded in Book 64, page 59. Richard Gamble and Effie Gamble to Eugene S. Kelly. One sixth of the inheritance for \$400.
- 1907 Warranty Deed, April 17, 1907. Recorded in Book 64, page 397. William F. Morkin to Eugene S. Kelly. One sixth of the inheritance for \$425.
- 1952 Eugene Kelly died. There is no deed transfer from Eugene Kelly to Dennis Kelly.
- 1957 Warranty Deed, May 9, 1957; Recorded in Book 125, page 121. Dennis Kelly et al. to Joseph W. Kelly, Sr. and Lucille Kelly. 105 acres for \$1.
- 1974 Warranty Deed, February 28, 1974. Recorded in Book 167, page 130. Joseph W. Kelly, Sr. and Lucille Kelly to the United States of America. 105 acres for \$37,000.
4. Original construction: The structure is virtually unchanged from its original construction. It was built as a masonry structure with a single space above grade and a full cellar partially below grade.
5. Alterations and additions: There have been no major alterations or additions to the granary or to the cellar below. Minor alterations for the sake of maintenance include cement patching on the lime plaster; concrete applied over the limestone cellar steps and bulkhead; a later door jamb to the cellar; random tin patching at the baseboard level in the granary; and replacement wood shingles on the roof.

B. Historical Events and Persons Associated with the Structure:

Charles Fields was one of a number of Irish immigrants who settled in the "Narrows" between Crooked Creek and the North Fork of the Salt River. It was not until Fields had acquired land in 1868 that he sent for his fifteen-year-old wife, waiting in County Cork, Ireland. The Narrows area became known as "Old Ireland" because of its concentration of Irish immigrants. It was populated by families with names such as Lillis, Curtis, Hurley, Kelly, Leary, Hardesty and Maher. The Irish community was a close-knit one, and the two Fields daughters, Maggie and Elizabeth, married into other Irish families.

The one-room granary for the storage of wheat seed and the partially subterranean cellar below was built by Fields using traditional Irish stone construction, rather than the more prevalent material of the region, wood. The concerted effort of the community's stone craftsmen was demonstrated in nearby Stoutsville, where they built a fine stone Catholic Church, St. Andrew's, in an Early Gothic style. Judge Henry Dooley donated the land and the stone for the church in order to capture some of "Old Ireland's" business and votes (Everett Dooley). The church is no longer standing, and the Fields Granary is the only remaining Irish stone structure in the area.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: None located.

2. Bibliography:

a. Primary Sources:

Dooley, Everett, Paris Missouri. Personal interview, July 12, 1978. Mr. Dooley was a longtime resident of Stoutsville.

Hunt, Karen (Platz) and Michael J. O'Brien. "National Register Nomination Form: Fields Stone Storage House." February 10, 1978. Copy in Washington, D.C., office of the National Register includes 5 photos, taken in the spring of 1977. Nomination prepared in conjunction with the Historic Resources Survey, University of Nebraska, Cannon Reservoir Human Ecology Project, 1977.

Hunt, Karen (Platz). "Historic Resources Survey Report." University of Nebraska, Cannon Reservoir Human Ecology Project, 1977.

Note: Much of the historical data in this report relies heavily upon primary sources interviewed by Karen P. Hunt.

b. Secondary Sources: None consulted.

Prepared by Travis C. McDonald
Architectural Historian
Historic American Buildings
Survey
August 1978

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The Fields Granary is a small, one-story stone structure with a full cellar below.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair/poor.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 11'2" (one-bay front) by 15'3".
2. Foundations: The stone bearing walls continue below grade to form the building foundations.
3. Walls: Limestone rubble laid in a broken coursed pattern and set with lime-base mortar. 11-1/2" wide vertical planks laid over wood framing enclose the gables.
4. Structural system: Stone bearing walls, 17" thick, with light milled oak framing used for the gables and the roof (Rafters: 2 x 4s, 26" on center; plates: 4 x 4s; ridge board: 1 x 4s; floor joists [set in joist pockets in the stone walls]: 6 x 8s, 18" on center). Cut nails are used throughout the structure.
5. Porches: None.

6. Chimneys: None.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: A single door located off-center on the west wall provides the only access to the granary level. It is a vertical plank door. The doorway consists of a plain-board lintel, jambs and sill. Access to the cellar level is through a bulkhead door, also located on the west wall. A plain-board frame surrounds the wall opening for the cellar. Tapered T-strap hinges are surface mounted.

b. Windows: One small ventilation opening 8" square is located at the level of the floor joists on both the north and south sides.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: Moderately pitched gable, covered with wood shingles, with 5" exposure.

b. Cornices: None.

c. Dormers: None.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: The building consists of a one-room granary situated over a one-room cellar, which is partially below grade.

2. Stairways: No interior stairs. The granary level is reached by a couple of concrete steps, the cellar by a set of limestone steps finished with a coat of concrete. Both are on the exterior.

3. Flooring: The main level has 3-1/2"-wide pine floorboards, laid longitudinally, and the cellar has a bare earth floor.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls of the granary are covered with a lime-base stucco. Around the perimeter are 8" baseboards with quarter-round shoes. There is no ceiling, and the underside of the roof structure is exposed. The cellar has bare stone walls.

5. Doorways and doors: No interior doors.

6. Mechanical systems: None.

D. Description of Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The Fields Granary is situated within a modest farmstead located less than half a mile to the northwest of the confluence of Crooked Creek with the North Fork of the Salt River. Outside access is by a ford on Crooked Creek one half mile to the northwest. The land slopes upward to the north to a broad ridge. To the south the hill drops down to the bottomland of the rivers. The granary faces west within the lawn immediately to the rear (north) of the farmhouse. Beyond are open fields.
2. Outbuildings: The Granary is the last remaining structure from the original Fields farmstead. The other buildings standing were constructed by Eugene Kelly during his occupancy, which extended from 1905 to 1952. Extant structures on the farm include the 1945 house (built after the original house had burned), the remains of the 1905-06 barn, and a frame shed. The log barn which was constructed by Fields is no longer standing.

Prepared by Clayton B. Fraser
Project Supervisor
Historic American Buildings
Survey
September 1978

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in cooperation with the St. Louis District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in compliance with Executive Order 11593, as a part of mitigation efforts connected with the construction of the Clarence Cannon Dam and Reservoir. HABS was engaged to document structures of cultural, historical, or architectural significance located within the Cannon Reservoir Project Area, in portions of Monroe and Ralls County, Missouri. The project was completed under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, Principal Architect. Recording was carried out during the summer of 1978 by Clayton B. Fraser, Project Supervisor; William T. Morgan (University of South Florida) and

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Travis C. McDonald (University of Virginia), Architectural Historians; Barbara A. Hendricks (University of Texas), Project Foreman; and Student Architects Dwight H. Burns (Texas Tech University), W. Michael Coppa (University of Virginia), Stephen H. Lauf (Temple University), and Michael K. Murdock (University of Texas). The data was edited in July 1979 by J.A. Chewning, Architectural Historian in the HABS Washington office. Photographs were taken by David J. Kaminsky in August 1978 and by William C. Haines between February and May 1979.